



# Belmont City News

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Belmont, CA 94002  
Permit #22

ECRWSS

Spring 2009  
Vol. 16, No. 1

Postal Customers

[www.belmont.gov](http://www.belmont.gov)

City Council  
David Braunstein, Mayor  
Christine Wozniak, Vice Mayor  
Coralin Feierbach, Councilmember  
Warren Lieberman, Councilmember  
William Dickenson, Councilmember

The Belmont City News is prepared by the City of Belmont each Spring and Fall

## Belmont's Public Safety Agencies: On the Job 24/7



*Community Service Officer Brian Weddell, Officer Chuck Bradshaw,  
Community Service Officer David Asher, Sergeant Tony Psaila, Officer Michael Thompson*

They are a familiar and welcome sight on our city streets in commanding black and white patrol cars, imposing red and white fire trucks and engines, impressive motorcycle patrols, the unmistakable D.A.R.E car, and helpful community service Go-For vehicles—all with a common purpose: the safety and security of Belmont and its citizens.

By definition, public safety involves the prevention of and protection from events that could endanger the safety of the general public from significant danger, injury/harm or damage. One of the primary roles of Belmont's city government is providing safety and security for the residents, property, infrastructure and natural resources. Our two main public safety agencies, the Belmont Police Department, led by Chief Donald Mattei, and the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department, led by Chief Douglas Fry, not only respond to crimes and emergencies, they analyze, anticipate, and work to prevent them. Together with city staff and elected officials, they have made great strides in applying innovative, community-based approaches and new technologies to help reduce crime, traffic incidents, fire danger and improved emergency response.

No other event in our country's history underscored the critical role of public safety agencies in our urban communities than the tragedies of 9/11. In the days, weeks, months and years following the events of 9/11, the response, collective coordination, super-human rescue efforts and ultimate sacrifices made by fire and police officers have reinstated the magnitude by which we entrust our property and our lives to these brave men and women.

From natural disasters and the threat of domestic or international terrorism, to neighborhood crime and school safety. Belmont's police and fire departments are prepared for a variety of challenges. Fortunately, new capabilities, such as the Mobile Command Center, are now available to help make our public safety agencies more connected, efficient, and equipped. So what exactly happens once you dial 9-1-1 to report an emergency?

### Did you know?...

- That when you call 9-1-1 the call goes to your local police department dispatch center; from there, if it is a law enforcement issue it is handled at that center, if it is a fire, medical, hazardous materials, or other public service request, it is transferred to San Mateo County Communications, which is located in the Hall of Justice in Redwood City. There your call is answered by a dedicated fire/EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatcher) who dispatches the call to the Fire Dept. & the ambulance company.
- In 2008, 55% of calls for service were medical in nature, 3% were fire related, 12% were mutual aid (assistance to other agencies) 30% were other types of service calls, such as hazardous materials, public assistance, police assist and others.

*Continued on Page 5*

DESPITE NATIONAL  
ECONOMIC TRENDS...

**BELMONT**  
HAS A  
**BALANCED  
BUDGET**

In the midst of these uncertain economic times, the City of Belmont has fared well financially as the result of stringent cost controls and prudent management of limited resources. The City currently maintains a balanced budget in both the near and long term with the projected fund balance well within policy guidelines, and has done so without the elimination of any major City services.

Belmont has dealt with economic downturns through a series of budget corrections in recent years. The two largest were a \$1.3 million package, approved by the City Council in 2003 and a \$1.5 million package approved in 2004 as part of the fiscal year (FY) 05 budget. The City has maintained prudent financial management so far with the implementation of these prior budget correction strategies in order to avoid further major budget cuts.

Commensurate with the sudden economic downturn last fall, the City Council supported a multi-point plan that included a hiring hold on vacancies, early revenue warnings, cost reductions and ongoing controllership audits. Those efforts have helped keep expenses down and alerted City staff to revenue shortfalls. Lastly, the City made nearly \$250,000 in mid term reductions that included staff furloughs. Despite these strategies that have already been applied, it's still expected that the City will be implementing a 5% budget correction citywide for next year, FY10, in order to maintain long-term financial stability.

City staff is working diligently to ensure that, while the focus is on making fiscally sound decisions and maintaining budget policy requirements, we strive to minimize the impact on City services and personnel.

For more information on the Belmont FY10 Budget go to [www.belmont.gov](http://www.belmont.gov).

Belmont Firehouse built in 1935 as a WPA project, which put unemployed residents to work during the depression.

## DID YOU KNOW

**FIRE SEASON.....** it's rapidly approaching! With meteorological indicators suggesting a hot and dry summer the fire danger this year is very worrisome.

**Did you know** that the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department urges all Belmont residents to clear brush and grasses to a minimum of 30-ft to 100-ft from their homes.

Doing so creates the defensible space as required under state law. Specific methods for performing the clearing can be viewed by visiting the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department web site at [www.bsafd.org](http://www.bsafd.org) and CAL FIRE at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

**Did you also know** that the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department makes inspection of the hilly sections of the city each spring through fall, looking for violators not conforming to state fire codes?

**Did you know** that cutting and mowing grasses and weeds 4"- 6" inches in height will greatly reduce the hazardous fuels and reduce the spread of wildfires? Low growing fire resistant vegetation is also encouraged to be planted around the home. Removing dead and dry brush around the home should be done in the same fashion as with the grasses. Removing dead and dying tree limbs six to eight feet from the ground will also increase this defensible space. Removing pine needles and other debris from your roof and gutters is also a critical measure in protecting your home from a fire.

The Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department will be out this fire season inspecting residential areas to make sure homeowners are complying with local and state fire codes. Please contact the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department for additional information regarding wildfire awareness and creating a defensible space. 802-4255.

## DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

All forms of fireworks are illegal in the City of Belmont and the City of San Carlos, including fireworks advertised as safe and sane as listed by the California State Fire Marshall's Office. Any person found using such illegal fireworks can be cited and will be held financially responsible for the suppression cost should their illegal activity start any fire that requires the fire department to respond.



Firefighter Greg Nave, Battalion Chief Dave Gillette and Firefighter Scott James



Battalion Chief Dave Gillette, City Manager Jack Crist, Fire Fighter Scott James

Chief Elwood Curtis and the Belmont Fire Department, circa 1930 on O'Neill Avenue



ROUSSEL SMITH    MANUEL VALLARDE    BERT JOHNSON    GEORGE LAGARDE    McDONOUGH    PAUL MILLER    FRED JOHNSON    SMAYEN NEILSON    JACK MARSTON    JOHN STAUGUS    RAY KELLY    BILL JOHNSON    TUT JOHNSON    ED LAGARDE WEIDNER PI

# An Ounce of Prevention...A Pound of Cure

When preparing for a possible emergency situation, it's best to think first about the basics of survival including fresh water, food, clean air and warmth. Since it is impossible to predict when a disaster will occur, it is important that you and your family are prepared ahead of time

**Become part of the solution...**

## Step 1: Get a Kit

Make your Emergency Supply Kit, which includes items such as non-perishable food, water, a battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. Determine the best location to store your kit, some options may be, the garage, a closet or outside storage. A large plastic container, such as a tub, tote or bin can be used to store your supplies. Backpacks or duffle bags are good choices to store items in that may need to be taken with you in the event you must leave your home. You may want to prepare a portable kit and keep it in your car or at your work place.

### Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- **Water-** One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation. Please keep in mind additional water may be needed for children, nursing mothers, sick or elderly and those with special needs. During the warmer weather season, the storage of more water may be necessary. Store your water in clean plastic containers such as soft drink or juice bottles with the cap tightened securely.
- **Food-** At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. What will work best: Remember to select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water. Pack a manual can opener and eating utensils. Avoid salty foods, as they will make you thirsty. Choose foods your family will eat. Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables, protein or fruit bars, dry cereal or granola, peanut butter, dried fruit, nuts, crackers, canned juices, non-perishable pasteurized milk, high energy foods, vitamins, food for infants, comfort/stress foods.
- **First aid kit-** Things you should have: Two pairs of latex, or other sterile gloves (if you are allergic to latex), sterile dressing, cleansing agent/soap, antibacterial towelettes, antibiotic ointment, burn ointment, adhesive bandages, eye wash solution, thermometer. Prescription medications you take every day, such as insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers (remember to rotate medicine to avoid expiration). Additional items that are good to have: Satellite phone, scissors, tweezers, aspirin/non aspirin pain reliever, antacid and digestive aids.

In any emergency a family member or you yourself may be cut, burned or suffer other injuries. If you have a kit with basic supplies you are better prepared to help your loved ones when they are hurt. Remember, many injuries are not life threatening and do not require immediate medical attention. Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency. Consider taking a first aid class, but simply having the listed supplies, may help you stop bleeding, prevent infection and assist in decontamination.

- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Copies of prescription medications and medical supplies
- Bedding and clothing, including sleeping bags and pillows
- Bottled water, a battery-operated radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit, a flashlight
- Copies of important documents: driver's license, proof of residence, insurance policies, will, deed, birth and marriage certificates, tax records, etc.
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Local maps

### Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash (large and small denominations), traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such basic first aid guide

- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

## Step 2: Make a Plan

### Prepare Your Family

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance: how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations.

- Make a Family Emergency Plan. Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.
- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.
- It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.
- You may also want to inquire about emergency plans at places where your family spends time: work, daycare and school. If no plans exist, consider volunteering to help create one.
- Be sure to consider the specific needs of your family members
  - Notify caregivers and babysitters about your plan.
  - Make plans for your pets
- Take a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class sponsored as a joint effort by the Belmont – San Carlos Fire Department and both the Belmont Police Department and the San Carlos Police Department

## Step 3: Be Informed

### Prepare Your Home

- Fasten shelves securely to walls.
- Place large or heavy objects on lower shelves.
- Store breakable items such as bottled foods, glass, and china in low, closed cabinets with latches.
- Hang heavy items such as pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit.
- Brace overhead light fixtures.
- Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.
- Secure a water heater by strapping it to the wall studs and bolting it to the floor.
- Repair any deep cracks in ceilings or foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects.
- Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products securely in closed cabinets with latches and on bottom shelves.
- Identify Safe Places indoors and outdoors like under sturdy furniture or against an inside wall away from where glass could shatter around windows, mirrors, and pictures or where heavy bookcases or other heavy furniture could fall over.

For further information on how to plan and prepare for disasters, as well as what to do during and after an emergency visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

The Belmont – San Carlos Fire Department is available to assist you, your family, business or community group regarding Disaster Preparedness. Please contact Christy Adonis, Disaster Preparedness Officer by telephone at 802-4254 or by email at [christya@bscfd.org](mailto:christya@bscfd.org)

## “Going Green in Belmont” Survey

The students of the School of Business and Management, Notre Dame de Namur University, conducted a survey regarding the “green” practices adopted by Belmont homeowners, as part of the course entitled Business Analysis using Spreadsheets. Data from 217 Belmont homeowners was collected and analyzed by the students.

The survey was comprised of 9 questions that addressed environment-friendly policies such as water and electricity conservation, recycling and reusing, contribution to cleaner air, proper disposal of hazardous waste, growing a vegetable garden, buying produce from local farmers market and composting. The survey also asked if the residents had installed solar panels.

The students found that Belmont homeowners have taken a variety of steps towards the preservation of the environment. On a scale from 1-5, green practices relating to conservation of water and electricity, recycling and reusing, and proper disposal of hazardous waste scored the highest; with the average score being above 3. Air pollution reduction measures, eating locally grown food and composting were the three lowest scoring green practices.

Only 8 out of 217 survey respondents said that they had installed solar panels in their homes. A majority of the respondents said that they have not considered the use of solar energy as a viable option or that it is too expensive to install solar panels. 65% of Belmont homeowners said that they would install solar panels if there was a rebate. Even among the eight homeowners who have installed solar panels, only two took advantage of the existing state and federal rebates.

Detailed report is available at <http://www.ndnu.edu/academics/schools-programs/school-business/sbm-research.aspx>



## COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS PARTNERSHIP

After a major disaster, emergency service resources will be stretched. The Belmont-San Carlos Community Emergency Response Team (BSC-CERT) Program is a cooperative effort between Belmont Police, San Carlos Police and the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Dept., to provide emergency preparedness training to the community. You can make a vital difference in your community by becoming a CERT member and using the skills you learn to save lives and protect property. The 20-hour training will allow you to help your family and your neighbors be better prepared for all kinds of disasters.

Taught by Emergency Services professionals and current CERT members, the training is a fun and interactive learning experience. Sessions include disaster first aid, damage assessment, earthquake preparedness, search and rescue, fire suppression and much more. Maintenance sessions are also scheduled throughout the year. Over 100 Belmont residents have already been trained. Classes are scheduled on a regular basis, and training is open to everyone.

To find out more or sign up for the next CERT training course contact Christy Adonis, Disaster Preparedness Officer for the Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department, or 802-4254, [christya@bscfd.org](mailto:christya@bscfd.org).



Officer Mike Chicas and Nitro

## DON'T TRY TO OUTFRAN NITRO

Police officers take their patrol partner selection very seriously—not only do they spend a lot of time together training,

patrolling, and responding to calls, they rely on each other in potentially dangerous situations. For Officer Mike Chicas, and his K-9 partner, Nitro, that bond is even stronger—Mike relies on his German Shepherd sidekick's heightened sense of smell, speed, agility and intelligence to aid in situations where a violent suspect is fleeing or is hiding in a home or building.

“Nitro” is a full bred German Shepherd born in May 2003 in the Czech Republic. He joined the Belmont Police Department in October 2004 where he was assigned to Officer Chicas in the patrol division.

Nitro has received training in all aspects of police K-9 duties. This includes obedience both on and off leash with verbal and non-verbal commands, locating and apprehending criminal suspects, tracking missing persons, locating evidence, and protection of his handler.

Thanks to Nitro's friendly disposition, he and Officer Chicas are often invited to perform demonstrations at local schools and community events. The Belmont Police Department Canine Unit is supported by public donations.

### BUCKET BRIGADES AND CITY MARSHALLS:

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF BELMONT FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS

The first Belmont Volunteer Fire Department gathered in the auditorium of Central School in June, 1926, as a means of providing the area with a speedy and more efficient fire protection service. Water buckets and wet sacks were the only equipment available to the volunteers at that time, but after several fundraising events, they were able to purchase a second-hand Seagrave chemical and hose truck. W.E. Curtis became Belmont's first fire chief, a position he held until 1929. The central fire station, located at 875 O'Neill Avenue, was built in 1935 as a WPA project, which put unemployed residents to work during the depression.

By the time Irwin (Slim) Hansen was sworn in as Belmont's first Chief of Police in 1930, the city was in its fourth year of incorporation—operating for several years without a single law officer. The town council elected Hansen as its police chief to replace H.C. Caldwell, the city marshal who resigned one year after the city's incorporation in 1926. Chief Hansen was soon joined by two additional officers on the force, to oversee law enforcement in the city of 1,000 residents.

For more information on the history of Belmont, visit the Belmont Historical Society located in the Manor Building in Twin Pines Park, or contact historian Denny Lawhern at [belmontcahistory@aol.com](mailto:belmontcahistory@aol.com).



BELMONT'S FIRST FIRE CHIEF ELWOOD CURTIS 1929



## The Mayor's Annual State of the City Address

With the new performing arts center at Carlmont High School as the backdrop for the time-honored tradition of the Mayor's State of the City Address, Belmont's Mayor delivered an oration worthy of the sparkling new theatre on March 31.

The evening began with a performance by the Carlmont High School tap dancers, which served as a lively opening for the Mayor's remarks to City staff members and elected officials, residents, and members of Belmont's business community.

Taking his cue from national economic headlines, the Mayor led off his address by discussing the City's current financial condition. He detailed the quick action that the Council took in March when the City's finance director explained to the City Council that the City was facing a \$275K deficit due to a decrease in sales taxes, hotel occupancy taxes, and building permits which are "some of the leading indicators of our economic condition," said the Mayor.

"Drastic cuts were not required because the City implemented a responsible fiscal approach long before the economic downturn." But a few small cutbacks are "tempering the effect of the nationwide recession."

"No one can speak about the economy with a great deal of certainty, but what I can report to you is that we are taking steps necessary to not only ride out the economically challenging period, we are also attempting to position the City to become much stronger in the decades ahead."

The Mayor went on to give the answer to one of the items that the City Council members are most asked about, which is how the City is taking advantage of the economic stimulus package.

"Belmont will receive \$485K for street improvements and has applied for 5 million dollars to fully fund the Highway 101 bike overpass project, as well as 1.1 million dollars to add solar to the library," said the Mayor.

"Overall projects funded by the stimulus money will not only help improve our community, but they will also help boost jobs and provide stimulus to local government and business." added the Mayor.

The Mayor went on to share his personal expectations that in this economy, Belmont residents will be more likely to participate in City recreation programs, attend free community events, shop locally, and enjoy the Belmont open space and parks more regularly. He also emphasized the need to develop a stronger relationship to work together to recruit a more vibrant business district for Belmont.

In closing, the Mayor also explained the need for greater communication with residents in our community and neighboring cities, and urged residents to stay connected by taking advantage of our city newsletter, web site, channel 27, and to attend City Council and commission meetings.

## On the Job 24/7 *Continued from Page 1*

- The Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department deployed personnel and equipment 10 times in 2008 assisting the State of California with Wildland Fires. The Department was out 44 days for a total of 4158 hours. They also assisted for two weeks on the investigation side of these events.
- Fire engines carry water and hose and fire trucks carry ladders and specialized equipment.
- The Fire Dept. had 6367 total responses for service in 2008.
- Fire engines are staffed with 3 personnel, and fire trucks are staffed with 4 personnel. Each unit (truck and engine) has different functions, but both respond to various types of emergencies, as well as medical and fire related emergencies. The crews operate as teams both separately and together in emergency and non-emergency operations and activities.
- The personnel all travel together on the engine or truck; to training, emergencies, fire inspections, fire hydrant inspection, grocery shopping, and all types of activities. This is because they are "All Risk" trained personnel; they can be called to respond to many different types of emergencies at a moment's notice – they are available to respond to calls 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 365 days a year – the Department is never closed. Firefighters are always on duty at the four fire stations.
- The engines and trucks carry the "All Risk" types of equipment to handle different types of incidents.

## Local Crime Trends in a Recessed Economy



*Traffic Officer Chuck Bradshaw*

After months of speculation, the federal government has officially declared a recession. And in the midst of layoffs, bailouts, foreclosures and the credit crisis, many cities, Belmont included, are examining how a recessed economy will affect crime trends on a local level.

The City of Belmont has historically enjoyed a relatively low crime rate. The proactive Belmont Police Department works closely with a supportive community, and there is no reason to believe that will change. However, a struggling economy has and will test our City's resolve. It is the job of law enforcement leaders and community members to take steps to manage those challenges.

While examining the data, Belmont PD observed that property crimes are on the increase. During the last half of 2007 (July-Dec) the Belmont Police Department investigated 67 burglaries (commercial, residential and vehicle), and 103 other thefts. During that same time in 2008 those numbers increased to 119 burglaries and 109 other thefts. Although some criminologists differ on whether or not an economic downturn has a direct effect on crime trends, we can not deny that it is certainly one variable that one must consider.

So the obvious question is, "What can we do?" Though the health of our economy might be something that is out of our hands, there are things that we can do to fight against the increase in property crimes. The Retail Industry Leaders of America (RILA) recently released a study outlining similar crime trends tied to the economy. In their study, they recommend "collaboration and continued partnership with law enforcement" as a key component.

Crime prevention is certainly critical step as well. Citizens and businesses who fail to lock vehicles, remove valuables, and take other basic security measures often provide would-be criminals with the opportunities they seek. Anyone in Belmont interested in a security evaluation of a home or business is invited to call the Belmont Police Department at 595-7400.

- When you call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency, the Department responds with a fire engine, because they are first responders and have paramedics on the engines to begin treatment as soon as they arrive on the scene. They participate in a boundary drop response program which means they send the closest fire engine or fire truck to all emergencies regardless of the city.
- Out of a department of 48 personnel – 27 are trained in Hazardous Materials Response, 15 are Paramedics, all members of the department are EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians)
- The Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department provides Hazardous Materials Response Team for all of the San Mateo County Cites, and respond to 50-75 calls a year in San Mateo County.

# WATER DOG LAKE LOOP TRAIL

## – IMPROVEMENTS –

One of Belmont's most popular natural attractions, Water Dog Lake Loop Trail, is in the process of realignment and other improvements that will make the trail easier for hikers to navigate, especially during wet weather. Thanks to a diligent group of volunteers and Belmont Parks and Recreation staff, the new trail will be at least 15 feet above the waterline of Water Dog Lake, which will allow year round use. The project will also help avoid the water quality impacts that are currently occurring from visitors walking in streams and wet soils. The trail will be wide enough for strollers and will attempt to maintain a steady grade. The existing trail along the far west end of the lake will be re-vegetated to improve the quality of the wetlands.

In addition to realignment, the project includes four small bike/pedestrian bridges with a 4' or 5' tread width, which will be added to assist users to cross drainages and the spillway. Footings will be constructed of concrete on the top of banks and without disturbing the riparian zone in the drainages.

Volunteers and staff members cut the tread by hand with shovels and rakes, and constructed some simple retaining walls to support the loose dirt. The City funded the \$40,000 project from the Planned Park Fund.

Lake Loop Trail realignment update

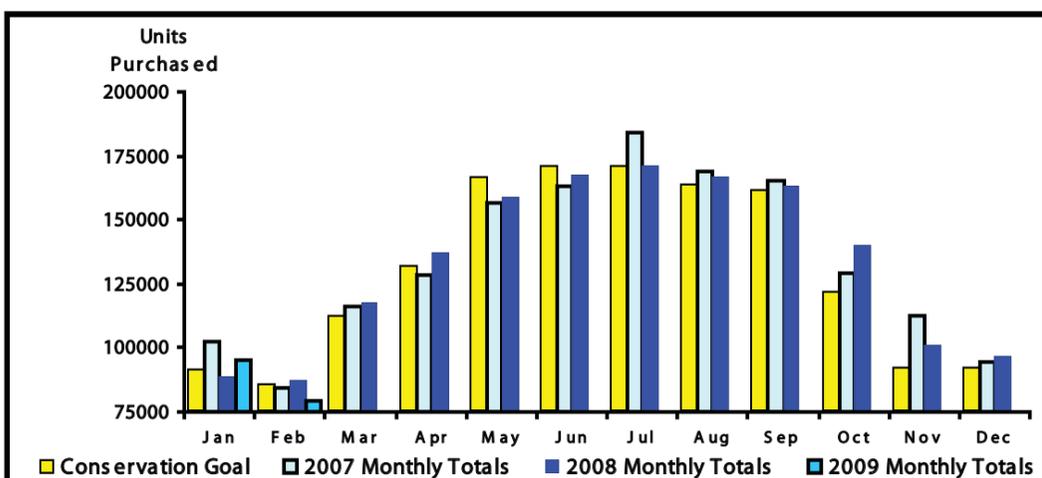


# Surviving California's Water Supply Shortage

California continues to face a severe water shortage emergency. On the heels of three consecutive dry winters, California's water supply is seriously being threatened. As a result, Mid-Peninsula Water District (MPWD) is requesting a call to action and asking that customers cut their individual water use to exceed the voluntary 10% requested in 2008 by at least an additional 5%. If no additional precipitation is received and we do not carefully adhere to stricter efforts there is a good chance we could be facing mandatory rationing in 2009. According to the Mid-Peninsula Water District (MPWD), the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which feeds our district, is currently at 69.1% total capacity to date. This is well below normal volume for this time of year, therefore we must prepare for the worst. The district continues to urge further cuts in water consumption and continued conservation by its customers in these uncertain times.

MPWD also feels it is appropriate at this time that they update customers on the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), as San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC), our current water supplier, moves closer to the programs implementation. The WSIP is a multi-billion dollar, multi-year capital upgrade project to San Francisco regional and local Bay Area drinking water systems. The proposed WSIP is structured to better meet water requirements, improve seismic and delivery reliability, as well as achieve water quality goals. Unfortunately, with system upgrades comes an associated cost. A cost that SFPUC and all the retail agencies it supplies will share in the years ahead.

Please note that MPWD will be graphing its 2009 conservation goal verses 2007 and 2008 years to date. The District asks that you take the time to reference this chart. The chart, which will be used as a tool to track the community's overall conservation efforts, will be updated in the months ahead. For more information on ways to save water, MPWD encourages community members you to visit their website at [www.midpeninsulawater.org](http://www.midpeninsulawater.org), contact the District Office M-F 8AM-4:30PM at 650-591-8941 or stop in at 3 Dairy Lane in Belmont. If everyone saves a little we can all save a lot!



# "America's Top 25 Towns to Live Well"

## Forbes Ranks Belmont



The City of Belmont was recently ranked by Forbes.com as #11 of America's top 25 towns. The article stated Belmont's strongest characteristic as the growing number of businesses saying that, "Belmont residents may not have as much cash on hand as their northern neighbors in Hillsborough, but there are far more businesses emerging there. Local firms have attracted \$878 per capita in venture funding, and the city scores in the top quarter for its number of restaurants and bars."

To determine the best towns in which to live well, Forbes teamed with ZoomProspector.com, a San Francisco-based consulting firm specializing in corporate relocation. Because geographical definitions range widely, they used the term "town" to describe every city, town, borough or Census-designated-place under 100,000 people.

To rank each town, they looked at median income; average commute; distance to highways and airports; per capita venture capital funding; per capita number of small businesses, sole-proprietorships and start-ups; the percentage of the population with bachelor's degrees or higher; the share of professional-level workers as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); the percentage of young and educated people, or those 25-34 with a bachelor's degree or higher; and the percentage of foreign-born residents with a bachelor's degree or higher. They also measured the per capita number of restaurants, bars, museums and cultural institutions.



## BELMONT EARTH DAY

It was all about reducing, reusing and recycling at this year's Belmont Earth Day Festival, which took place on April 25 at the Barrett Community Center. The event offered hands-on activities and presentations that inspired attendees to save energy and water at home, in school, and in the community. Electric cars, a native plant mural, and tree giveaway helped the community realize opportunities to go green.

Over 40 vendors representing non-profit organizations and private businesses were on hand, and approximately 400 guests were in attendance. Guest speakers conducted seminars on topics including energy savings and growing vegetables in your backyard. The event was free, open to the public, and included bike parking on-site and vehicle parking at Notre Dame High School.

The Festival was the culmination of a week's worth of Earth Week events, during which friends, neighbors, schools and faith groups participated in a variety of community improvement projects—including a compost giveaway, e-waste recycling, shredding, invasive species plant removal, graffiti removal, and tree planting. Volunteers included groups from Notre Dame University, Hotel Sofitel, the Parks and Recreation Commission, city staff, and non-profit groups.

City staff did their part for Earth Day by spreading mulch at Twin Pines, removing invasive plant species in the Waterdog Lake Open Space, and trimming back vegetation overhanging sidewalks and roadways along high volume streets such as Alameda de las Pulgas and Cipriani.

The week was a success and has resulted in greater awareness of the importance of our natural resources.

### Problem Oriented Policing

The Belmont Police Department embraces the Problem Oriented Policing (P.O.P.) philosophy. Officers are assigned to P.O.P. teams led by a sergeant. These P.O.P. teams work closely with the community and schools to address the problems of crime, and quality of life issues.

The P.O.P. team sergeant's coordinate Neighborhood Watch meetings, neighborhood association meetings, and speak at schools and service organizations. By working in partnership with the community the Department hopes to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Belmont. For more information on P.O.P., call Belmont PD at 595-7400, or go to [www.belmont.gov](http://www.belmont.gov).

## TEEN CENTER

### Gives Middle School Kids a Fun, Safe Place to Hang Out

The Belmont Teen Center, located at the Barrett Community Center, Room E, is designed as a drop-in program for middle school-aged kids who live or attend school in Belmont. Students now have a safe and fun environment to play pool, foosball, air hockey, ping-pong, watch TV, arts and crafts and do homework.

Outside activities include basketball, baseball, football and other turf sports on the grass field at Barrett. By offering facilities, programs and services like the Teen Center, the City has helped reduce the rate of juvenile crime.

The Center is open Wednesday afternoons from 1-5pm and Fridays from 3-6pm throughout the school year. The Teen Center is a Belmont Parks and Recreation Department Program.

Supervision of the Center is provided by the high school group VOICES and its advisor, Erica Spacher, Teen Recreational Specialist for the City of Belmont. For more information, contact Erica Spacher at 595-7447 or email at [espacher@belmont.gov](mailto:espacher@belmont.gov).

## Economic Development Program *Update*

Belmont continues to implement its comprehensive General Plan/Housing Element Update project. On April 21 & 28, 2009, the Belmont City Council & Planning Commission conducted Study Sessions on the City's 2007-2014 Housing Element; the draft document will return for City Council & Planning Commission review in June 2009. Also in June 2009, the Belmont City Council & Planning Commission will be conducting public meetings on revised zoning regulations for the "Downtown Village Areas", the City's Economic Development Target Sites, and the Downtown Specific Plan Area (DTSP). These Amended Zoning Districts would include updated and streamlined land use regulations, development standards, and design guidelines for the Belmont Village area to achieve the desired quality and character in development projects.

Specific to the City's Economic Development Strategy, the City has targeted four specific economic development sites (*Village Center/Emmett's Plaza, Firehouse Square, Belmont Station, and Shoreway Place*) - see City Website [www.belmont.gov](http://www.belmont.gov) for more details. The vision for these areas includes high quality redevelopment with an attractive mix of commercial, hotel, office, residential, open space and public gathering opportunities.

An initial Request For Qualifications (RFQ) process for development of *Firehouse Square* was placed on hold after discussions with potential developers revealed that the limited scale of the project creates economic constraints. The City is researching the combination of the *Firehouse Square & Emmett's Plaza* target sites into a single Unified Development Area to entice more developers. Staff has arranged interviews with several property acquisition firms which will also help create more attractive development opportunities within this area. The City is also completing site acquisitions along the El Camino Real corridor and within the City's Redevelopment Area to create affordable low to moderate income housing opportunities for the community.

## VOICES

For Belmont's high school students, VOICES (Volunteer Outreach Involvement in Community Events & Services) offers community service opportunities in Belmont, San Carlos and around the Bay Area. VOICES meets once a week to discuss and plan upcoming events and activities. Members can expect to participate in at least one volunteer activity per month in addition to weekly meetings. Events are usually scheduled during the weekends so as not to interfere with classes. In addition to volunteer events and weekly meetings, the group participates in retreats for team building and to reward members for all of their hard work. Over the course of a year, retreats usually include a white water rafting trip in the summer and a snowboarding trip in the winter, as well as a few overnight retreats at the Teen Center.

VOICES accepts applications from freshmen, sophomores and juniors in the spring (incoming freshman and graduating seniors are not eligible). Once applicants are accepted, they remain active in the group until they graduate high school.

VOICES is a Belmont Parks & Recreation Department Program supervised by Erica Spacher, Teen Specialist for the City of Belmont. For more information on VOICES, contact Erica at 595-7447, or [espacher@belmont.gov](mailto:espacher@belmont.gov).

## New Parks Planned for Cipriani and Davey Glen Neighborhoods

The Belmont Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of designing two new parks in Belmont: Semeria Park and Davey Glen Park. The sites are very different in size, topography, and landscape and present fun and interesting challenges. Semeria Park is a small pocket park located in the Cipriani neighborhood at the intersection of Casa Bona and Semeria avenues. The site is a flat dirt lot that will likely be transformed into a neighborhood meeting place with a play area for the little ones and sitting areas for the adults. Davey Glen Park is an acre in size with steep terrain in a dense eucalyptus forest located on Davey Glen Road. This park will likely be a more natural experience using the landscape to create both areas for active play and quiet reflection. Both designs are in process and the Department is planning on hosting site meetings for both parks this summer. It is anticipated that designs will be complete by the end of the calendar year with construction scheduled for 2010.

## Community Calendar Program Update

### June 6 – Outdoor Flea Market

Barrett Community Center, 9am – 2:30pm

### June 19 – A Magic Night

Twin Pines Senior and Community Center, 6 – 8pm

### June 22 – Day camps start, Carlmont High Pool opens

### Aug. 28, Sep. 11, Sep. 25 – Movie Nights in the Park

### ONGOING EVENTS:

#### Belmont Certified Farmer's Market

Year-round, rain or shine

Sunday's 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the south Caltrain parking lot at El Camino Real and O'Neill Avenue.

#### Dance Nights

Held the first Wednesday of every month 7-9:30 p.m.

Twin Pines Senior and Community Center

Admission fee: \$6

#### Summer Concert Series—June 14 through July 26

Sunday afternoons 1-4 p.m.

Twin Pines Park Meadow

Free



*Police Chief Irwin (Slim) Hansen*

## Important Telephone Numbers

### EMERGENCY SERVICES:

Police or Fire Emergency 9-1-1

### CITY OFFICES:

City Council Offices	595-7413
City Manager's Office	595-7408
City Clerk	595-7413
City Treasurer	637-2961
Finance/Admin Services	595-7436
Human Resources	595-7452
Information Services	637-2969
Parks and Recreation Administration	595-7441
Permit Center	595-7416
Police Administration	595-7404
Police Business	595-7400
Public Works	595-7427
Belmont/San Carlos Fire Department	802-4255

### CITY SERVICES:

Abandoned Vehicles	595-7455
Banner information	595-7427
Building Permits	595-7422
Business Licenses	595-7436
Code Enforcement	637-2968
Construction Hotline	610-5715
Graffiti Hotline	595-7455
Job Hotline	595-7438
Permit Center	595-7416
Senior & Community Center	595-7444
Sewer Back-up (after hours)	595-7400
Trails Maintenance	595-7470
Tree Maintenance	595-7470

### OTHER AGENCIES:

Allied Waste (Garbage)	592-2411
Bay Area Air Quality Control	771-6000
Caltrans Maintenance	358-4129
Child Protective Services	595-7922
Health Department (County)	363-4305
Library	591-8286
Mid Peninsula Water District	591-8941
Mosquito Abatement	344-8592
Peninsula Humane Society	340-8200
Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center	373-3490
PG&E 24-hour help line	800-743-5000
Post Office	800-275-8777
School Districts:	
Belmont- Redwood Shores	637-4800
Sequoia Union High School	369-1411

## City of Belmont Staff



### Belmont City News

Managing Editors:

Jack Crist and George Brunson

Writing/Editing:

Joan Dentler & Erica Spacher and  
Joni Stallings

Design and Printing:

FolgerGraphics

*(Printed on recycled paper with soy ink)*